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NATION WIDE	MAR 3	MAR 4
Fresh cases	6,561	6,396
Recoveries	14,947	13,450
Deaths	142	201

KARNATAKA	MAR 3	MAR 4
Fresh cases	382	233
Recoveries	689	648
Deaths	10	6

SHOCKING SPIN

Cricket legend Shane Warne died of a suspected heart attack in Thailand on Friday. He was 52. According to Warne's management, "he was found unresponsive in his villa and despite the best efforts of medical staff, he could not be revived."

In his career spanning 15 years Warne helped Australia win the World Cup in 1999 and took the most wickets -- 195 -- in the history of Ashes

Warne made a **fairytale run** in IPL leading a modest outfit Rajasthan Royals to the title in the inaugural edition

MAJOR TEAMS
Australia
Victoria
Rajasthan Royals
Hampshire
Melbourne Stars

He had his share of controversies too. A failed drug test before 2003 World Cup, links with bookies, sex scandals are just a few to remind of his zesty life

Bowling style : Right-arm leg-break
Test debut : v India, Sydney, January 1992
Last Test : v England, Sydney, January 2007

WARNE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2000 selected as one of the five Wisden Cricketers of the Century, the only specialist bowler selected in the quintet

Leading wicket-taker in Tests before being overtaken by Muttiah Muralitharan of Sri Lanka

1993 Ashes

WARNE'S FIRST LEG-BREAK DELIVERY IN AN ASHES TEST TURNED VICIOUSLY TO BAMBOOZLE MIKE GATTING AT OLD TRAFFORD | P19

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
3 DAYS TO GO!
THINKEDU CONCLAVE
SASTRA

Quarry crashes, five rescued

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mysuru

FIVE labourers were rescued after a portion of a stone quarry came crashing down at Madahalli near Gundlupet in Chamarajanagar taluk on Friday. At the time of the incident, 12 labourers were said to be working at the quarry and rescue workers were not sure whether other labourers have perished or trapped under the debris.

A large boiler fell on the earthmoving equipment and tipper lorries at the bottom of the quarry. P5

N-plant grabbed in Russia shocker

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A bright flaring object lands on the grounds of a nuclear plant at Enerhodar in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region | AP

AFTER keeping the world on edge by bombing Europe's largest nuclear plant in Ukraine on Friday morning, which sparked a fire at a training facility on the site, Russian troops took control of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station.

By noon, the fire was doused and the plant's staff continued working, reportedly under Russian gunpoint. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) later confirmed that the plant was safe and dispelled fears of a radiation.

Moscow's shocking aggression on the ninth day of its invasion of Ukraine drew furious reactions with Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy accusing Russian leader Vladimir Putin of unleashing nuclear terror. "If there is an explosion, it is the end of Europe," said the Ukrainian leader, who may have fled to Poland according to unconfirmed reports in Russian media.

Ukrainian foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba said Russian ground forces fired at the nuclear facility from all directions and eventually took control of it. Three Ukrainian troops were killed and two wounded, said the Ukrainian state nuclear company.

The US, UK and France joined Ukraine in condemning Russia's 'reckless action' which British PM Boris Johnson said could "directly threaten the safety of all of Europe".

However, Russia denied having any role in the fire at the nuclear site and blamed Ukrainian sabotage groups. "The goal of the provocation at the nuclear station was to try to accuse Russia of creating a radioactive flashpoint," said Russian defence ministry spokesman.

IAEA's director-general Rafael Mariano Grossi said the plant's nuclear reactors are all safe and there was no spike in the radiation level.

Meanwhile, Russia continued to bomb Ukrainian cities on Friday. However, they could not make major breakthrough due to stiff resistance by Ukrainians. P11, 14

₹55,657 crore allocated to spur economic growth | Endowments Dept not to control temples anymore | Focus on Bengaluru, which will face civic polls soon

No new taxes in budget of hope

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai presents his maiden budget for 2022-23 at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Friday | EXPRESS

It was revenue surplus, but due to Covid-19 it has become revenue-deficit. Due to increased expenditure commitments with available resources, a revenue deficit of Rs 14,699 crore is estimated in 2022-23 compared to Rs 15,134 crore in 2021-22 — Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister

TOP OF THE BUDGET

₹31,980 cr (12% of budgetary allocation) for education sector

No new taxes

More allocation to all sectors

B'luru gets ₹8,409cr

Mekedatu project gets ₹1,000 crore

Namma Clinics in major cities of the state and all wards of Bengaluru

For the first time in the country, Blue-Plastic Management Scheme to be introduced at a cost of ₹ 840 crore

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA BUDGET 2022-23 DECODED

AFTER tumultuous two years of the pandemic, it was hope that was shining through in Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's budget, which was presented on Friday with no additional burden of taxes and fuel surcharge on the common man. Understanding that the economy still needs crutches to recover from effects of Covid, he allocated Rs 55,657 crore to spur growth.

Despite it being a deficit budget with the size of Rs 2,65,719 crore, Bommai managed to apportion substantial sums to social welfare, agriculture and irrigation sectors, and also infrastructure. The agriculture and irrigation sectors were allocated Rs 33,700 crore, social welfare Rs 68,479 crore, heritage and culture Rs 3,012 crore and administration reforms Rs 56,710 crore.

With Bengaluru going to the polls anytime soon, the focus was on the capital city, which received Rs 8,409 crore for its comprehensive development, up from Rs 7,796 crore from the previous budget – an increase of Rs 614 crore.

While the state government is yet to get clearance for the Mekedatu project, the chief minister announced Rs 1,000 crore. "There is a reason why the allocation has been made. We know at what stage the project is in," he said at a post-budget press conference, asked why the money has been sanctioned when the project has not yet taken off. Experts said it is a reaction to Congress taking out the padayatra from Mekedatu.

He released temples, which were substantial revenue grossers for the government, from the clutches of the Endowments Department that was the long-pending demand of temple administrations.

"Though states are allowed to borrow up to 3.5 per cent of GSDP (to help overcome the economic impact of Covid), we are restricting it to 3.26 per cent, showing our commitment to fiscal discipline," he said. P4

INSIDE

CM: A GROWTH-ORIENTED, SENSITIVE BUDGET | P4
NO TAX HIKE, BUT EXCISE REVENUE TARGET JUMPS | P5

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